when the quarters were ready but were not allotted to Central Government employees; and

(e) how the bills of contractors for such faulty construction have been finalised by the engineers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) There have been some complaints about seepage in Govt. quarters at Vasant Vihar, New Delhi and in the terrace level tanks there. The seepages reported are of minor nature and there is no likelyhood of any damage either to the buildings or to the life of the residents on this account.

(c) All efforts are made to attend to the complaints of the allottees promptly. However, due to the work-to-rule agitation and strike of Junior Engineers in the CPWD, there were some delays in attending to the complaints of the allottees. The JEs strike has now been called off and the work in the Enquiry Offices is returning to normal. The pending complaints about seepages had repairs of overhead tanks will attended to shortly.

(d) In view of the position explained above, the question of taking action against any CPWD engineer does not arise. There is nothing wrong with the works nor any serious defects have been noticed. The construction works were inspected and checked from time to time both by the officers connected with the work as also by the departmental officers from Quality Control Cell. The leakages in overhead tanks could not be checked/detected earlier due to non-availability of water from the MCD.

(e) The bills of the contractors have not finalised so far.

National Programme of Flood Control

4153. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) when the National Programme of Flood Control in the country was launched and when the programme was originally scheduled to be completed;

(b) what are the achievements made so far and what are the reasons for non-completion of projects;

(c) what is the percentage of cost escalation in respect of the ongoing projects due to delay in their completion;

(d) what steps are being contemplated by Government to accelerate the progress of these projects; and

(e) by when Government propose to complete these projects?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI G. S. DHILLON): (a) It was started in the First Plan and it is a continuing programme.

(b) A reasonable degree of protection has been provided to an area of about 13.2 million hectares upto March, 1986.

(c) It varies from project to project for various reasons.

(d) and (e) State Governments have been advised to give priority for the early completion of on-going projects by providing adequate funds and also to earmark funds for large and interestate schemes.

Soft loan and grants to Bihar for opening of Fair Price Shops

4154. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount given to Bihar as soft loan and other grants to open Fair Price Shops for distribution of essential commodities through cooperative sector during the last three years;

(b) whether Government have issued directions to the State Governments for distribution of essential commodities through co-operative sectors;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what is the amount allocated as soft loan and other grants for the purpose to Bihar Government in the budget grant of current financial year and proposed to be allocated for the next financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No amount has been released to the State Government of Bihar specifically for opening of fair price shops for distribution of essential commodities through the cooperative sector. However, financial assistance is provided to the states, including Bihar, to undertake distribution of Consumer goods in urban and rural areas, through consumer cooperatives.

The following central assistance was sanctioned to the Government of Bihar for purchase of vans to be operated as mobile fair price shops:

(*Rs. in lakhs*)

Year	No. of Vans	Amount		
		Loan	Subsidy	Total
1985-86 .	12	12 55	4.18	16 73
1986-87 .	5	9.37	3 13	12 50

(b) and (c) Guidelines for strengthening the Public Distribution System have been issued to all the States/UT Governments suggesting, *inter-alia*, that where new fair price shops are to be opened, preference should be given to the cooperatives, especially in rural areas.

(d) No State-wise allocation is made for sanctioning central assistance to the States for purchase of vans to be operated as mobile fair price shops. Each proposal is considered on merit.

Ban on recruitment by SAIL

4155. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Steel Authority of India Ltd. had recently imposed a ban on recruitment in all its offices and subsidiary units for the next ten years;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether this type of decision is likely to have any adverse effect on increasing unemployment in the country and particularly on the future of the youth residing in steel townships who are likely to become overage till the ban is removed by the Steel Authority of India Ltd.;

(d) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take to save the future of the youth residing in these steel township?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not airse.

स्टील अथारिटी आफ इंडिया लिमिटेड और टाटा कंपनियों द्वारा एल०पी० जी० सिलण्डर शीटों की बिक्री

4156. **श्री घनश्याम सिंह** : क्या **इस्पात और खान** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) टाटा कंपनी और स्टील अथॉरिटी ऑफ इंडिया द्वारा तेल कम्पनियों के माध्यम से सिलण्डर विनिर्माताओं को एल०पी०जी० सिलण्डर शीट (13.15 मि०मी०) किस भाव पर बेची जाती है ;

(ख) ये कम्पनियां फालतू एल०पी० जी० सिलिण्डर शीटें (3.15 मि०मी०) खुले बाजार में किस भाव पर बेचती हैं ; और

(ग) क्या उसके मूल्य में कोई अन्तर है और यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं?

इस्पात और खान मंत्री (श्री एम० एल० फोतेदार) : (क) और (ख) इस बात को ध्यान में रखे बिना कि इस प्रकार के निर्माता तेल कम्पनियों के उप वंटिती हैं अथवा उन्होंने सीधे उत्पादकों के पास अपनी मांग पंजीकृत करवायी है, "सेल" द्वारा सिलिण्डर निर्माताओं को एल०पी०जी० चादरों (3.15 मि०मी०) की सप्लाई 8805 रुपये प्रतिटन तथा "टिस्को" द्वारा 10190 रुपये प्रतिटन के हिसाब से की जाती है। खुले बाजार में इन चादरों की कोई बिक्री नहीं होती है।

(ग) यह प्रश्न नहीं उठता।